

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed June 10, 2005, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In response to the Examiner's reminders concerning the proper language and format for an abstract, Applicant has amended the Abstract so that, for example, it does not exceed 150 words.

Claims 1, 12, and 16 are amended to correct clerical errors made by Applicant or the Office. Support is found in the specification. No new matter is presented.

The rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jansen (US Patent No. 6,243,450) is respectfully traversed. Simply put, Jansen does not disclose all the limitations recited in the present application claims.

The present invention concerns a public-access e-commerce service portal, preferably having multiple carrels. Among the elements of the portal is a computer that includes a number of units — such as drive and printer units — and that is programmed to permit a user to operate the units after entering a valid log-on ID or (for a new user) establishing a log-on ID.

In contrast, Jansen describes an “apparatus for providing pay-per use billing to end-users of public access services available through an Internet-accessible kiosk or terminal.” (Jansen at col. 1, lines 21-24.) Jansen nowhere describes a computer programmed to permit a user to carry out operations after the user enters or establishes a log-on ID.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the citations to Jansen that the Examiner provides to support the contention that Jansen anticipates every element of the claims, but those citations fail in several instances.

For example, claim 1 recites “said computer being programmed to permit a user to selectively operate the units after said user enters a valid log-on ID.” Regarding this claim language, the Examiner cites Jansen at Fig. 9, element 233 and Fig. 11, element 240, suggesting that “service and transaction ID correspond to a valid log-on ID.” (6/10/05 Office Action at 3.)

But there is no such correspondence. A valid log-on ID is an ID previously provided to and recognized by a portal according to the invention that when entered by a user will *allow the user access*. In contrast, the service and transaction IDs do not control user access, but merely identify for the apparatus of Jansen certain types of available services and transactions *requested by a user*:

The microprocessor 82 then augments the initial code previously stored in connection with the service request program (at Block 218 in FIG. 8) to produce a *service identification code* to indicate the *specific multimedia service requested*. If the user had selected to use the telephone, a service identification code associated with the telephone service is produced. Thus, a *service identification code* is produced to indicate the *type of service requested* by the user.

Block 230 then uses the *service identification code* to lookup a *service record* stored in non-volatile memory.

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Referring to FIG. 9, a service record 231 includes a *service identification field 233*, a service type field 235 and a service rate field 237. . . . Generally, *the service record relates service identification with service types*, service charge periods and associated service rate information. The service record associated with the *service identification specified by the user* is retrieved from memory and stored in a current service record buffer in a volatile memory.

Referring back to FIG. 8, block 232 directs the microprocessor 82 to launch the *service specified by the contents of the service identification field 233* and at the same time to launch a corresponding service usage task associated with the requested service.

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Referring to FIG. 10, the corresponding *service usage task* begins with block 236 which directs the processor to produce a *service usage records* [sic] as shown in FIG. 11. The *service usage records includes a transaction identification field 240*, a service identification field 242, a date/time field 244, a duration field 246, a charge field 248, a payment method field 250 and a card number field 252. Initially, the contents of each of these fields is zero, however, after a blank record has been created, the *transaction identification field* [240] is loaded with a unique reference number to uniquely *identify the transaction*, the *service identification field* [233] is loaded with the *service identification* of the service record shown in FIG. 9, the date and time field 244 is loaded with the date and time of the current transaction, and the duration charge payment method and card number fields 246-252 are left blank.

[Jansen at col. 9, lines 10-67 (emphasis added).]

In sum, Jansen's service identification field 233 and transaction identification field 240 identify for billing purposes types of services and transactions, respectively, that have already been chosen by a user. This differs from the log-on ID recited in the present application claim 1, which must be tested to see if it is valid before a user is permitted to choose any of several capabilities available on a portal according to the invention.

Similarly, for the claim 1 language "programmed to test the validity of . . . log-on ID entries made by users," the Examiner cites Jansen at Figs. 3, 9, and 11 (6/10/05 Office Action at 3), but nothing in those figures pertains to log-on IDs or testing their validity when entered by users.

By the same token, for the claim 1 language "to establish a log-on ID for a new user after receiving answers manually input to the computer by the new user in response to predetermined demographic questions," the Examiner cites Jansen at col. 9, line 20 to col. 10, line 32. (6/10/05 Office Action at 3.) But nothing there or elsewhere in Jansen describes allowing a new user to establish a log-on ID, much less doing so after the user answers predetermined demographic questions. Much of the cited portion of Jansen is quoted above; the remainder is no more relevant.

In addition, claim 1 recites “a video camera connected to the computer, said computer being programmed to use said video camera to provide video-conference service to the user.” (6/10/05 Office Action at 3.) The Examiner cites Jansen at Fig. 4, element 92 — which is merely a video display — and Fig. 5, element 170 — which is merely an audio video player. (See Jansen at col. 6, lines 38-39 & col. 7, line 42.) The Examiner also cites Jansen at col. 7, lines 28-46, but that merely includes a discussion of audio video player 170. Not only is no video camera disclosed, but nothing about video-conference services is disclosed in Jansen.

Moreover, claim 1 recites “free services including . . . live contact with an intranet agent at an e-commerce service facility.” Although the Examiner cites Jansen at Fig. 4, col. 6, line 32 to col. 7, line 6, and col. 1, lines 54 to 63 (6/10/05 Office Action at 4), nothing there or elsewhere in Jansen describes live contact with an intranet agent at an e-commerce service facility.

Some or all of the foregoing limitations in claim 1 are also found in independent claims 12 and 16. For example, claim 12 recites “said computer being programmed to permit a user to selectively operate the units after said user enters a valid log-on ID,” and claim 16 recites “providing a log-on ID to a user upon receiving answers from the user to predetermined questions.” Given that Jansen fails to disclose numerous features recited in independent claims 1, 12, and 16, Jansen cannot anticipate either those claims or the remaining, dependent claims. Claims 1-17 are therefore believed to be allowable.

Applicant does not concede the accuracy of any of the Examiner’s citations to Jansen that supposedly disclose features of the dependent claims. For example, claim 2 recites:

2. The portal of claim 1 further comprising *a second telecommunications link*, said second link *being a switched link*, said computer being further *programmed to initiate a call back over the switched link when a service selected by the user requires a fee* to be paid by the user.

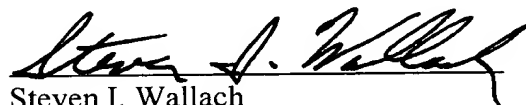
[Emphasis added.]

The Examiner cites Jansen at Fig. 10 and col. 9, line 51 to col. 10, line 15. (6/10/05 Office Action at 4.) But neither there nor elsewhere does Jansen disclose a second telecommunications link, that it is a switched link, or that a computer is programmed to initiate a call back when a service selected by a user requires a fee. (*See also* Pub. No. US 2001/0054019 at 6 ¶ 61.)

Given the numerous failings of Jansen to disclose features recited in the independent claims and dependent claim 2, Applicant respectfully declines at this time to address the Examiner's citations to Jansen regarding the remaining dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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